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E.O. 12958: N/A  
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SUBJECT: Letter from Ecuador's President Correa Regarding the U.S. -  
Colombia Defense Cooperation Agreement

REF: STATE 121858

11. The Embassy received under cover of a diplomatic note a letter from President Rafael Correa, responding to the Secretary's letter dated November 25, 2009, regarding the U.S. - Colombia Defense Cooperation Agreement. The text of the letter follows, and the original will be sent by pouch to WHA/AND.

(Begin text)

Quito, December 4, 2009

Mrs.

Hillary Clinton

Secretary of State of the United States of America

Mrs. Secretary,

I am thankful for the contents of your November 25 letter regarding the Cooperation Agreement on Defense between the United States of America and Colombia, and the reassurances that it will be implemented in accordance with international law and respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries.

In this regard, I am sending you the text of the Resolution approved on November 27 by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of Defense of the Union of South American Nations - UNASUR- about Trust and Security Actions. At that time, the decision of the UNASUR Chief of States and Government to strengthen South America as a peace zone was ratified.

Additionally, by confirming that UNASUR is the appropriate forum, we extend an invitation to the Government of the United States of America to maintain a dialogue with the purpose of addressing topics of vital importance to the region, on a date and in a place to be agreed upon via diplomatic channels, through the Pro Tempore

Presidency exercised by Ecuador.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Rafael Correa Delgado

President of the Republic of Ecuador

Pro Tempore President of the Union of South American Nations

(End text)

HODGES